

THE SURREY INVESTIGATION GROUP ON AERIAL PHENOMENA
(S.I.G.A.P.)

Secretary: Telephone Guildford 63381

Newsletter No. 14

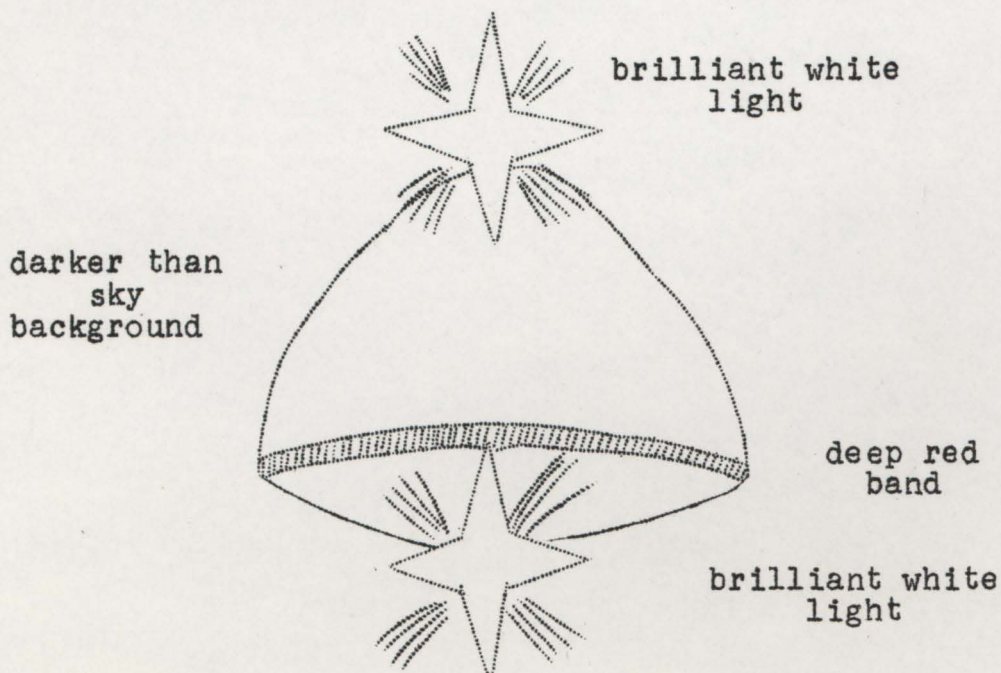
July 1, 1968.

The Surrey Investigation Group on Aerial Phenomena is affiliated to the British Unidentified Flying Object Research Association and their united aims are to promote unbiased investigation and research into the "Unidentified Flying Object Phenomena".

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+ UFO PAYS MIDNIGHT VISIT TO NEWPORT +
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Mr. Derek Toombs, a Welsh S.I.G.A.P. member, has sent in an extremely interesting account of a UFO which he and a friend saw over Newport in April. Mr. Toombs, a newcomer to our group who lives at 28 Clynmawr Street, Abertillery, Monmouthshire, Wales, says in his report:-

"At 12.20 a.m. on the morning of Tuesday, April 23, 1968, I was walking along Stow Hill, Newport, in the direction of the Hardpost Pub, with Miss Violet Burnap, of 160 Stow Hill. By chance I happened to look up at the sky - to see a brilliant white light moving from West to East. After a few minutes I came to the conclusion that it was a UFO. The behaviour pattern was of the usual kind exhibited by such objects - bizarre, pendulum, zig-zag and curved movements of varying accelerations along its average West to East course.



SKETCH OF OBJECT SEEN BY MR. TOOMBS

"The UFO gave the impression that it was scrutinizing Newport town, and appeared to be travelling along the South Wales coastline towards the River Severn. At first the object looked like a bright moving star. But after continued observation both of us could define an outline. It seemed to be shaped like a tea-cosy with a light on top and a light underneath. Along the perimeter of the bottom part of the tea-cosy shape was a deep red band. At no time did the lights change in brightness. The object did not make any noise and we could see no vapour trails or emissions of smoke. The object, which moved very slowly, was first sighted approximately 85° above the western horizon. It was last seen about 35° above the eastern horizon. It faded into the distance behind the glare of Newport's lighting complex. Police and local newspapers were given details of the sighting".

S. 94

Sightings From The Past

During the summer of 1964 two UFOs were seen over Dunsfold Aerodrome, some 10 miles from Guildford. They were observed by Mr. A. H. Lloyd, of "Strathavon", Guildford Road, Cranleigh, at that time an electrical aircraft inspector.

The exact date of the sighting is not known, but Mr. Lloyd thinks it was sometime during June or July. Says Mr. Lloyd:- "I have been in the aircraft industry for 12 years and in the R.A.F. for 4 years prior to that, and have been intrigued by the UFO problem for a long time. So when this sighting occurred I was prepared.

"The sighting, which took place at about 2 a.m. one morning, lasted 22 seconds. I saw two UFOs - one slightly above and behind the other. Both had a hard outline and were glowing brightly. They were similar to mercury arc lamps, but not so dazzling. The objects made no noise and were on a North by North-East course. They did not deviate from this course although they were descending in a long curve. I estimated the height at which I first saw them as being 2,000-3,000 feet at a distance of half a mile. They appeared to be the size of a sixpence held at arm's length, only elliptical in shape. They did not pulsate but glowed steadily. An interesting factor is that as the objects passed before me and until their disappearance behind some trees, I could not detect any parallax between them. They stayed the same distance apart, although the sighting angle changed.

"The night was very quiet, and lit by a bright moon. There was some scattered light cloud. Visibility was good. The sighting was verified by one or two people the following month in either the "Flight" or "Aeroplane" magazine".

This particular sighting was investigated by S.I.G.A.P. member Mr. R. K. Thackray. Says Mr. Thackray in his investigator's report:-

"In view of Mr. Lloyd's occupation at the time of the sighting, aircraft misinterpretation is not very probable. Mr. Lloyd is an intelligent and reliable person with the ability to think logically. He is not the type to exaggerate or distort. Since his sighting he has become very interested in UFOs. He is convinced that he did not observe any normal aerial object with which he was familiar. I believe this is a very reliable report. During the time Mr. Lloyd observed the object he did all the usual visual tests to eliminate conventional possibilities.

"He holds the opinion that life must exist on other planets and that 'flying-saucers' are possible". S. 95

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On September 1, 1859, Richard Carrington, an astronomer, saw two moving luminous bodies in the sky from his observatory at Redhill, Surrey. He was of the opinion that they were not meteors.

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Another Redhill sighting was reported on November 12, 1965. At 9.45 p.m. a local resident spotted a mysterious glowing orange-coloured object crossing the sky from the direction of Godstone. It made no noise, was visible for about 1½ minutes, and shaped like an inverted shuttlecock. The witness was unable to offer a natural explanation for the phenomenon.

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An object almost as big as the moon, but not so bright and shrouded in a mist, was seen in the sky over Guildford on December 16, 1965, by a woman on her way home. She saw it as she turned off the Guildford Bypass into Manor Road. The object was travelling in a northerly direction towards Stoughton Barracks. Its speed almost equalled that of a shooting star.

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Two large glowing lights were seen in the sky over Andover, Hants., on September 14, 1953. Both were flat underneath and domed on top. The objects appeared to have some sort of stronger light band running around their middles, described by witnesses as being like a "revolving neon light". The 'saucers' were noiseless.

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An elliptical UFO was seen over West Horsley, Surrey, on October 4, 1962, just as the sun was setting. The witnesses were Mr. and Mrs. R. F. Wood, of "Copsley", Shere Road, West Horsley. Mrs. Wood was the first to see it - when she looked out of a bedroom window at about 6.50 p.m. She said the object was about 10° above the western horizon, as bright as the moon, and at a distance of some 20 miles. Mrs. Wood's husband, an amateur astronomer, observed the object for a few seconds with his telescope, before it disappeared behind a cloud. He described it as being like a flattened ball with two pieces protruding from it - one on either side. Both Mr. and Mrs. Wood were completely baffled as to the nature of the object.

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The Skywatch held on June 15 at Pewley Down, Guildford, was disappointing to say the least. Not because virtually nothing out of the ordinary was seen, but because of the atrocious weather.

At 7 p.m., when the watch commenced, the sky was almost devoid of cloud. All our hopes were high. For if any UFO was going to visit the Guildford area that night we would be sure to see it. But fate was against us. As darkness crept up on us, so did the cloud. Soon the sky was completely overcast and that's the way it remained for practically the whole of the night.

Despite the weather, many members turned out for the skywatch. June 15 was National Skywatch Day and 27 UFO groups throughout the country set up observation posts. Warminster, plagued by UFOs in the past, St. Austell, Stockport, Nottingham and Edinburgh - these were just some of the places where UFO enthusiasts maintained an all-night vigil. But for the second time, Pewley Down was chosen by the British UFO Research Association (B.U.F.O.R.A.) as the skywatch headquarters. S.I.G.A.P.'s equipment included a mobile generator, UFO detectors and diffraction gratings. The main piece of B.U.F.O.R.A. equipment was a portable radio station which succeeded in establishing contact with other UFO groups - in this country and abroad.

One of S.I.G.A.P.'s consultants, Mr. Tim Childerhouse, a satellite expert who works in the Space Department of the Royal Aircraft Establishment at Farnborough, provided skywatchers with a list of the times when certain satellites and rocket fragments would be visible. Unfortunately, owing to the bad weather none of these were seen.

But what several members did see at 10.50 p.m. was a red glowing object in the direction of Hindhead. It was visible for 25 seconds. S.I.G.A.P. will look into this sighting further.

Eight men and a girl who also went skywatching on June 15 and set up a UFO observation post near Worthing, had a terrifying experience. Their all-night vigil was at Chanctonbury Ring - associated with witchcraft and the devil in bygone ages - seven miles from Worthing. They claim that although they saw nothing they felt a strange presence and became unusually cold. One skywatcher had stomach pains and another had difficulty in breathing. The men and the girl planned to go back to Chanctonbury Ring on June 29. We have not yet heard whether or not they did.

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A loving kiss from a spaceman of the future could well kill his wife if he had just returned from another planet - according to eminent scientist Dr. J. R. Wilkins. He says that the danger of astronauts bringing back an alien disease might one day make it necessary to isolate them for a month or more after a voyage.

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The possibility of astronauts one day coming face to face with intelligent beings from another world cannot be dismissed as metaphysical speculation - says Dr. Kurt Debus, Director of America's Cape Kennedy Space Centre.

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Soviet space scientists have successfully launched and brought back to earth a robot astronomical observatory. The satellite, Cosmos 215, carried eight small telescopes. Information gained from the stars by the telescopes is now being analysed by computer.

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Three American astronauts will spend 10 days in orbit around the Earth in September testing the Apollo moonship.

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Since writing the article entitled: "The Spectre of Winterfold as a Ley Phenomenon", I have discovered that if the line Coneyhurst Hill-Palmers Cross is extended to the east, it will strike the southern flank of Holmbury Hill - and then, further on, the northern side of Anstiebury Camp. If the same line be extended to the west, it will strike first Hydon Ball, and then Beacon Hill, Hindhead. All of these hills must have been important sighting points in ancient times and tracks must have radiated from them in all directions. That all five (including Coneyhurst Hill), lie on a straight line is remarkable. It makes one think that a ley must have linked them. Holmbury and Anstiebury were Iron Age forts. All this strengthens the suspicion that the Winterfold Spectre may have been witnessed on the line of an ancient trackway.

- Dan Butcher.

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LATE NEWS ITEM.

The S.I.G.A.P. Group can now add to its contacts in the U.S.A. the "Students Investigation on UFOs" of Oklahoma City. Other interested parties are the Colorado University and the Utah University. Our stamp bill is rising weekly.....